

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS AT PROPELLER CLUB
BALL RECEIVE RENEWED PRESS ATTENTION

1. IN COURSE OF THE PROPELLER CLUB'S BICENTENNIAL BALL,
WHICH WAS HELD IN ATHENS ON FEB 7, THE AMBASSADOR
SPOKE AND MADE SOME PERTINENT POINTS REGARDING GREEK-AMERICAN
RELATIONS (SEE PARA 3 BELOW). PRESS COVERAGE OF THE
AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENT, WERE
MINIMAL WITH ONLY THE GREEK MORNING NEWSPAPER ACROPOLIS
(CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) REPORTING IT FEBRUARY 11.
ITS SMALL BACK PAGE BOXED STORY ON THAT OCCASION WAS HEAD-
LINED "KUBISCH: WE WILL NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF
THE PAST."

2. EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE FULL TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S
REMARKS WAS FORWARDED BY THE PROPELLER CLUB TO ITS
MEMBERSHIP ALONG WITH A REGULAR FLYER ANNOUNCING FUTURE
CLUB ACTIVITIES. THIS WAS DONE AT THE REQUEST OF MANY
MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE BALL ON FEB 7
AND WHO WISHED TO HAVE COPIES OF THE AMBASSADOR'S
REMARKS. THIS LATEST DISSEMINATION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S
COMMENTS SPARKED RENEWED INTEREST IN THEM IN TWO
ATHENS DAILIES (ONE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THE OTHER
GREEK LANG). THE ATHENS DAILY POST (ENGLISH
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LANGUAGE) PRINTED A SPECIAL BOX ON ITS FRONT PAGE

MARCH 12 WHICH CONTAINED EXCERPTS FROM THE REMARKS, WHILE THE GREEK LANGUAGE AFTERNOON PAPER VRADYNI (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVT) THE SAME DAY CARRIED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AMB'S COMMENTS AS THE SECOND LEAD STORY ON ITS FRONT PAGE. VRADYNI'S HEADLINE READ "STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR: WE MUST NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST: RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE USA". GIVEN THIS NEW SPARK OF INTEREST IN THE LOCAL PRESS, WE WISH TO DRAW TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION THE KAY EXCEPTS FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS.

3. AFTER A FEW INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS CONCERNING THE BICENTENNIAL AND AFTER QUOTING FROM PRESIDENT FORD'S DECLARATION IN CONNECTION WITH OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR, THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT BOTH GREEKS AND AMERICANS ARE PRIVILEGED TO REGARD THE CONCEPTS OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AS BOTH A COMMON HERITAGE AND A CONTINUING COMMON GOAL. HE CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS:

"AND THEY TAKE ON SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN A GREECE WHICH, TO THE EVERLASTING ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD, HAS SEEN DEMOCRACY RESURRECTED AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES RESTORED.

"OUR OWN IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO CONTINUE TO FORGE AN UPDATED, MODERN, REALISTIC AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL STRUCTURE OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TO RE-FORGE OUR DEEP AND LASTING FRIENDSHIP.

"THESE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES MUST BE BASED ON TRUE MUTUAL RESPECT, ON DIGNITY, RECIPROCITY, AND COMMON DEDICATION TO GOALS WE BOTH SHARE.

"AND THEYMUST DESERVE - AND HAVE - THE BROAD SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES.
"WE MUST NOT REPAT THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST.
"BUT WE MUST ALSO NOT DWELL INTERMINABLY ON THE PAST. IT IS TIME TO MOVE FORWARD AGAIN.
"AND WE SHALL DO SO.
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"TODAY GREECE AND THE PEOPLE OF GREECE HOLD THE ADMIRATION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.
"BUT NOWHERE IS THE ADMIRATION GREATER - AND THE AFFECTION DEEPER - THAN IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS WE OBSERVE OUR BICENTENNIAL IN 1976.
"THANK YOU."

4. COMMENT: THE EXCERPTS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S

COMMENTS AS THEY APPEARED IN BOTH VRADYNI
AND THE ATHENS DAILY POST WERE REPORTED ACCURATELY --
AND WITHOUT COMMENT.
KUBISCH

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